

Says French Reweaver:

Nothing's Sacred to Ants; Not Even Nylon Stockings

Ants, the type found on any picnic, can send a pair of nylon stockings to the rag bag quicker than a keg of torn fingernails or a lumber yard full of splinters. Such is the claim of Mrs. Meka Overstreet, 4308 Torrance boulevard, who for the past ten years has been responsible for many a wolf whistle. Mrs. Overstreet is a stocking reweaver, a vocation she has been pursuing since 1941, the year the government started turning stockings into parachutes.

When the 29-year old housewife, who might easily model hostery as well as mend it, is asked to repair a pair of nylons and discovers they have been attacked by ants, she refuses to touch them.

"It's useless to attempt to reweave hosiery over which ants have crawled. I know from experience that although only one 'snag' may need immediate repairing, chances are the entire stocking has been weakened by the ants."

Mrs. Overstreet claims the damage is caused by a body secretion of the ants and not by eating.

Her theory is given support by Wayne Durston, science instructor at El Camino College.

Says scientist Durston: "Tests in my laboratory show that formic acid will 'eat' a hole in a pair of nylons. This is the same acid secreted by ants."

If you have ever eaten a picnic sandwich with an ant attempting to share your lunch by nibbling at the same sandwich, that bitter taste in your mouth is caused by formic acid in the ant's body.

To protect your nylons Mrs. Overstreet suggests that stockings be placed in ant-tight glass jars. Often recommended as a stocking saver is the practice of placing nylons in the ice box. The French-reweaver, as she titles herself, can offer no sound basis for such action other than that while in the refrigerator stockings are safe from ants.

"During the last war when good nylons were at the top of the hard-to-get list, I was asked to repair 14 pair of stockings for one lady who left them on a night stand near her bed. Ants had eaten through them and ruined all 14 pair. They were impossible to repair," remembers Mrs. Overstreet.

She says that woolsens, cottons, and other non-chemical fabrics apparently are not affected by the ant's body secretion.

Here again her findings are supported by instructor Durston.

"Nylons," says Durston, "are a coal-tar derivative. They are made through a chemical process and are not grown as woolsens or cottons. The formic acid released by ants simply dissolves the nylon strands—it not completely it weakens the threads so that the slightest tug will cause a 'run' as I believe the ladies call it."

Although milady's legs would not be enhanced by dabbling them with ant paste, the practice would undoubtedly protect her precious leg coverings.

Perhaps some enterprising cosmetic manufacturer can produce a Gardenia scented ant paste with which milady can dust her stockings. Maybe even a scent for evening wear and another for afternoons.

Life is so complicated!



MODEL DORIS McQUILLAN, A PAIR OF NYLONS, AND A BOTTLE OF ANT PASTE. IT'LL BE STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE IF NYLONS BECOME TOUGHER TO GET.

26 Hr., 26 Min. Drive Underway By Red Cross

Red Cross volunteer workers began ringing Torrance doorbells Monday of this week as the 1951 Red Cross fund drive got underway.

The local quota of the \$3,000,000 chapter goal is \$11,100, and Mrs. Gladys Weston, Torrance fund chairman, reports that the response so far indicates an appreciation of the tremendous responsibilities the Red Cross has taken on in the present emergency.

"It will cost the Red Cross \$7 per minute to carry on its stepped-up programs at home and abroad," the local chairman said, "and Torrance is asked to support these programs for 26 hours and 26 minutes."

Volunteer workers are urging each subscriber to underwrite the Red Cross for at least one minute. Those who cannot afford \$7 are reminded that \$3.50 will finance a half-minute.

Among Torrance volunteers in the fund drive are Charles T. Rippey, 1331 Post avenue, commerce and industry chairman; Mrs. Joseph Andrade, 4208 West 174th street, colonel; and Mrs. Harvey B. Spielman Jr., 2345 Doris way, colonel.

Eleven majors include Mrs. Florence Martin, 2431 Gramercy avenue; Mrs. Ethel R. Richardson, 22903 Cabrillo avenue; Mrs. N. D. Smith, 2010 Martina avenue; Mrs. T. L. Saunders, 2847 Gramercy avenue; Mrs. John W. Harvey, 2102 Middlebrook road; Mrs. Wanda Phillips, 1569 West 228th street; Mrs. Robert E. Murphy, 1520 Fern avenue; Mrs. Delbert Thomsen, 1447 El Prado; Miss Ethel West, 1619 West 216th street; Mrs. Virginia Naumann, 4912 Sharynne lane; and Robert S. Sleeth Jr., 24291 Los Codona avenue.

Kettler, Shady Nook Residents Fight Variance

Petitions against the erection of a service station and grocery store at 228th street and Sepulveda boulevard in the Shady Nook area adjacent to Kettler Knolls were still being circulated this week by residents of the area who seek to block the granting of a variance for the businesses by the City Council.

A hearing on the requested variance has been scheduled for next Wednesday evening in the City Hall.

Residents in the area involved are being urged this week to attend the Wednesday hearing if verbal protests are to be lodged with the commission.

Body of Soldier Arrives in U.S.

Brought home from Hawaii Island where he was killed in 1944, to be buried in the Jefferson Barracks National Memorial Cemetery in St. Louis, is the son of Mrs. Regina Salome Cunningham of 17549 Cabrillo avenue.

Her son, Dan, a private attached to the Seventh Cavalry, was killed on March 12, seven years ago. His remains are now in San Francisco awaiting transportation to St. Louis, the Army informed Mrs. Cunningham, this week.

He was 19 years of age.

Students Seek To Wipe Out Debt With Newspapers

"If you have a bunch of old newspapers you don't want—the students of Torrance High School can use them."

The students want to wipe out a \$382 Student Body debt and figure a paper drive on March 15 will do the trick.

Just leave them (in bundles 10-12 inches high) on the curb two weeks from today.

A call to Torrance 645 between now and then will make certain that your contribution is collected.

In the meantime the students would like everyone to save their old papers until the drive.



BY DAWN'S EARLY LIGHT... Arthur James (right) Walteria hunter, indicates a thicket in the Palos Verdes Hills where he thinks "Simba" the elusive mountain lion may be found. The oft-seen lion eluded night-hunters last Friday but James says "There's a cat in those canyons" and will try again. Other hunters in photo are (left to right) D. C. Cook, Earl James, and Pete Norman. Note tanker in channel between mainland and Catalina island in background. (Herald photo).

Cagey 'Simba', The Big Cat Still Roams Palos Verdes Hills

'WE'LL TRY AGAIN' SAY DETERMINED TRACKERS

"Simba," the will o' the wisp Palos Verdes mountain lion, has successfully eluded an organized hunting party and apparently still ranges free and far over the rugged slopes in the Portuguese Bend region.

Traces of the phantom, endowed by witnesses, with about 100 pounds and a lengthy tail were uncovered in the search by a pair of professional hunting dogs who twice picked up warm "feeding trails" which were said to have been made by the "cat" several hours earlier.

RUGGED TRIP Rugged country and mischievous elements combined to help thwart a party of ten, including four experienced huntsmen and three newspapermen who battled driving rain, chill wind, darkness and rough underbrush for four hours last weekend in futile search.

It was conducted over terrain which had been characterized as "Simba's" last known habitat by Jack Beardwood, vice president of the Palos Verdes Corporation, who was host for the expedition against the wily mountain denizen.

Shortly after 3:30 a.m., as the party stumbled up a narrow canyon, scent of what presumably was the object of the track was picked up quickly by the dogs, who scampered into the wild country far ahead of their owner, Arthur James, of Walteria.

NOTHING TO IT! James had outlined the procedure of the affair. It's easy. The dogs scent the lion, chase him up a tree, and wait for the hunters to dispatch the dangerous beast into happier hunting grounds.

As the party started after the dogs, James was followed by his son, Earl; Pete Norman, Torrance hunter; Officer D. C. Cook, of the Torrance Police Department, who toted a high-powered rifle, and a pair of Palos Verdes residents, Jim Hook and Larry Horan.

"Jim had been one of those who had seen the lion. 'At the distance of about one foot—roughly," he attested.

Accompanying the hunter through the nearly impassable brushland were the newspapermen, Jack Baldwin and Reid Bunay of the Torrance Herald, and Bob Wilcox of the Lomita

News—all of whom claimed to be casualties of the expedition.

CASUALTY LIST (Bundy required doctor's aid for torn ligaments in his left leg incurred in a fall early in the long hike; Baldwin caught a cold; Wilcox complained of "contusions and abrasions.")

By the time the party caught up with the dogs at a rendezvous point, the "scent" was determined to have been made by some kind of "cat," all right—but several hours earlier.

Arthur James was encouraging. "He's here all right—mebbe a mile, mebbe ten."

This remark had immediate results. The party narrowed down to seven—the two Jameses, Norman, Cook, and the trio of newspapermen. "We separated the men from the boys," commented Baldwin, bitterly.

Tartar Teen Talk

By MARIAN McDONALD

Attention, everyone, George Zavislan's vocal groups selected "Belle of Bagdad" for this year's operetta. This group staged the very delightful "Sunbonnet Girl" last year, and this year's operetta promises to be even more entertaining.

There will be a cast of 15, a large chorus and a dance group. The dates and the cast will be announced in the near future.

The latest reports on the senior play "That Brewster Boy" is that it's coming along fine with all the students practicing and working hard to get the sets ready.

This event promises to be a very outstanding affair, as it is the first time this play has ever been done in Southern California. So on the eighth of March it will have its premiere. The evening performance will be March 9, at 8 o'clock.

Because of the popularity of "That Brewster Boy" as a radio serial, the Samuel French Publishing Company has talked Author Pauline Hopkins into writing the equally successful play.

The playwright has never seen this play in production before, and she is coming here to see it for the first time. Having the playwright coming to see the play will be an added incentive for both the public and the students working on the production.

Many students from the high school art classes entered their drawings in the Scholastic Art Exhibit sponsored by Bullock's downtown store. There were 7000 entries, in this contest and only 820 were selected for awards.

Our school was represented by five very talented students. Winning merit awards on the block print were Claire Bentwood, a ninth grader and Gail Thompson, a tenth grader, both of these students are in beginning art. Winning a merit award for an opaque water color is another freshman, Marilyn Robinson. This water color is of an abstract design inspired by fish flies, a rod, and a reel. Martha Gruver, a junior, did a very outstanding oil painting which will be sent to Pittsburgh. Pa. for further exhibition. She received a key award. Ann Flanagan, a junior, won a merit award with a pencil sketch. Congratulations to these fine art students.

Monday Miss Sampiers and 30 students from the beginning and intermediate art class went to see the art exhibit. Arrangements are being made for other art classes to go at a later date.

"Please save papers," is what the student council is saying to all students of THS. The dates for this paper drive are March 13 and 14. So remember, save papers.

FHA, Future Homemakers of America, members and their mothers, are planning to attend the annual spring convention which will be held in Covina. Marian Manners, home economist for a Los Angeles newspaper, will be guest speaker. The girls and their mothers will attend panel discussions during the day.

A troupe of the National Thespians Society, a society for dramatic art students designed to further an interest in dramatics and speech, is being organized in Torrance High by Mr. Dan Desmond, dramatic arts teacher. The National Thespians Society is an "honor" or "recognition" society for all students who have done outstanding work in dramatic arts and have met the membership qualifications and standards of their troupe. A point system is used to determine whether or not a student is eligible for membership.

Rainfall Hits 3.52 Inches in Week-end Storm

For those who may have been out of town last week, Torrance was drenched in a three-day storm during the week-end which was followed by early morning, nippy weather, reports Torrance's weather man.

A total of 3.52 inches of liquid sunshine (called rain anywhere but in California) fell on Torrance last Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

Wednesday morning of this week the thermometer went skidding downward to a chilly 33 degrees to leave roof tops blanketed with frost.

The total rainfall for the season stands at 5.44 inches. This compares to 7.46 for a year ago this time and to a total for last year of 8.48 inches.

The temperatures for last week were:

February	Minimum	Maximum
22	39	61
23	41	56
24	36	54
25	39	65
26	41	60
27	43	60
28	43	58



SCIENTIST DURSTON AND HOLES LEFT BY ANTS... They Have a Picnic With Nylons

Civil Air Patrol Needs Services Of Specialists

If you can handle a stethoscope, an adding machine, or a camera the Civil Air Patrol at Torrance Airport can use you.

According to Warrant Officer, Elmer Azpetia of Detached Squadron 95 which is stationed at the nearby airport, the CAP needs a medical officer, a public accountant, and a photographer.

Officers of the group may be contacted on Sunday mornings at the Pacific Coast Highway airport between 9:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.

Local Woman Hurt in Four Car Accident

While a passenger in one car, Mrs. R. R. Stringer, 61 of 1420 Elm avenue, received minor injuries last Thursday when involved in a four-car accident in Santa Ana Canyon near the Riverside County line.

According to the California Highway Patrol, Mrs. Stringer was a passenger in an auto driven by Otis Smith, 45 of the Elm avenue address. Smith's car was struck from the rear while stopped at a construction job on the canyon road. His car then hit the car ahead of his which in turn rammed the fourth car involved. None of the drivers was injured.